

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Report No</b>	<b>ERA-12-20</b>

## THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

**Committee:** Easter Ross Area Committee

**Date:** 20 August 2020

**Report Title:** Tain Common Good Fund – Quarter 1 Monitoring Report

**Report By:**  
**ECO – Finance and Resources**  
**ECO – Communities and Places**

### 1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report presents the Quarter One monitoring statement for the Tain Common Good Fund. Income and expenditure are as agreed as part of the budget setting process.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 This report asks Members to scrutinise and note the Quarter 1 monitoring statement for the Tain Common Good Fund.

### 3. Implications

- 3.1 Resource: The Quarter 1 monitoring statement indicates a deficit of £27,800 by the end of the financial year. This is as a result of expenditure related to Alexandra Bridge and the Tain Mussel Bed and was forecast as part of the budget setting process. The Usable Revenue Reserves stood at £223,440 at 31st March 2020 with a capital receipts reserve of £119,530. (NB this is an unaudited figure) The anticipated deficit will reduce the Usable Reserves to £195,640
- 3.2 Every effort is made to limit spend and to protect the balances of the Tain Common Good Fund (TCGF) however essential repairs are required to the Alexandra Bridge and a budget is also set aside for an initial survey to assess the levels of mussel stock. The mussel survey will be undertaken in order to assess the potential to secure a future income stream from the mussel fishing rights and is therefore important to the long-term position of the TCGF.

- 3.3 Legal: the application of funds will fall within the competency guidelines set out both in statute and in common law in relation to Common Good Funds. Additionally, through the governance being implied by the Finance Service, funds will remain compliant with all financial regulations.
- 3.4 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural): due to the lack of income there is no community grants budget. There are no other equality, poverty or rural implications as a result of the report
- 3.5 Risk: without a potential income from the mussel beds, the TCG will struggle to cover it's costs and the ongoing repairs to it's assets. The mussel survey is therefore essential in order to establish a long term position for the TCG and enable investment in common good assets.
- 3.6 Climate Change / Carbon Clever, Gaelic: None

#### **4. Quarter 1 Monitoring Statement**

4.1 A monitoring statement showing transactions to the end of June 2020 against budget and the estimated year end position is attached at Appendix 1.

#### **4.2 Income**

4.2.1 The market street stalls and grazings are all let with income as shown in Appendix 1. The income received is in line with the total budgeted.

#### **5. Expenditure**

- 5.1 There has been minimum expenditure to date although it is expected that the work to replace the brackets of the Alexander Bridge will commence soon.
- 5.2 There is no expenditure to date for the Tain Mussel Fishery. Members will recall that an intertidal survey and a drop down video survey is required to assess the condition of and prospects for the fishery and a quote had been received from a local company, Moray First Marine, to do the video survey. The work is also being supported by colleagues who will prepare the survey plan and liaise with the company. This requires the right tide and weather conditions. The intention was to complete survey in March/April but this was, of course, prevented by Covid 19. It is now hoped to complete the intertidal surveys in September on the spring tide and the video surveys are in the process of being rescheduled. If the results of this work are promising, a more detailed survey would be required before the potential to lease out the right to operate the fishery could be considered further.

Designation: Liz Denovan, ECO, Finance and Resources  
Carron McDiarmid, ECO, Community & Places

Date: 4th August 2020

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## Appendix One

### Tain Common Good - Quarterly Monitoring

Period to 30th June 2020

	Actual to date £	Budget £	Estimated Outturn	Variance £
<b>INCOME</b>				
Rents	3,659	8,600	8,600	0
Interest and investment income	0	1,600	1,600	0
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<u>3,659</u>	<u>10,200</u>	<u>10,200</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Staff Costs	0	2,000	2,000	0
Property costs	227	15,000	15,000	0
Central Support Charges	0	1,000	1,000	0
Tain Mussel Fishery	0	20,000	20,000	0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<u>227</u>	<u>38,000</u>	<u>38,000</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Income less Expenditure</b>	<u>3,431</u>	<u>(27,800)</u>	<u>(27,800)</u>	<u>0</u>